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coast range. On the neighboring hills innumerable shells are adherent to the fractured limestone, and south to those west of Rivas; from there the limestone dips to south-east and is only about sixty metres above the sea between San Juan and Virgin bay, while part of the Rivas plateau was undisturbed."

It will be observed that one of these footprints indicates the use of sandals or moccasins by the pedestrians of that day. None of this character have been reported from Managua. Undoubtedly a society which wears shoes cannot be assigned to the earliest stages of human culture. Many of the natives of Central America to this day never protect the feet in any manner.

In conclusion, I should say, that there can be no doubt of these being genuine human footprints. They are not of that mythical origin which the fancy of savage nations delights to imagine,\* nor can there be the least doubt of their authenticity. Their antiquity remains uncertain. In regions at once tropical, fertile and volcanic, we may expect sudden upheavals and subsidences, and the ravages of the most violent outbursts are repaired by a luxuriant vegetation with surprising rapidity. My own opinion is, that there is not sufficient evidence to remove them beyond the present Post-pliocene or Quaternary period.

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*Stated Meeting, December 16, 1887.*

Present, 27 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Correspondence was submitted as follows: Letters of envoy were received from Société R. des Sciences à Upsal; Fondation de P. Teyler van der Hulst à Harlem; Società Italiana della Scienze, Torino; Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, London; U. S. Naval Observatory, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

A letter from Lord Rayleigh, London, acknowledging receipt of his diploma.

A letter was read from Prof. March, Easton, Pa., in refer-

\* See Dr. Richard Andree, on "Fussspuren," in his *Ethnographische Parallelen und Vergleiche*, s. 94 (Stuttgart, 1878).

ence to the lately-appointed commission to determine upon a uniform mode of spelling in public documents, etc., of the State of Pennsylvania.

The American Association for the Study of Modern Languages was invited to visit the Society's Hall during its approaching session in this city.

Letters of acknowledgment from Imperial Russian Geographical Society, St. Petersburg (125); Prof. Otto Donner, Helsingfors (125); Société R. des Sciences, Upsal (123, 124 and List of Members); Captain Richard Temple, Mandalay (125).

Letters were read from the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, inviting the officers of the Society to be present at its Reception, December 17, 1887, the Decennial Anniversary of the Foundation of the Club;

From the Rutland County (Vermont) Historical Society, requesting Constitution, Laws, etc.;

From the Smithsonian Institution, announcing the election of Prof. Samuel P. Langley, LL.D., as Secretary;

From the Oneida County Historical Society, in reference to a celebration of the New Hartford Centennial.

A circular was read announcing the proposed issue of a new journal to be called *The American Anthropologist*.

Accessions to the library from Royal Society of Tasmania; Geological Survey of India, Calcutta; Naturforschender Verein, Riga; K. B. Akademie der Wissenschaften, München; Société R. des Sciences, Upsal; Fondation de P. Teyler van der Hulst, Harlem; Società Italiana della Scienze, Torino; Publishers of "Cosmos," Paris; Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, London; Philosophical Society, Cambridge; Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford; Philosophical Society, Glasgow; Messrs. Henry W. and Henry V. Poor and Charles E. Sprague, New York; Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., Philadelphia; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.; Prof. J. W. Mallett, University of Virginia.

The death of Dr. Middleton Goldsmith (Rutland, Vermont), on November 26, 1887, æt. 70, was announced.

This being the evening for the consideration of communications pending for the Magellanic Premium, the Society discussed the claims of one signed "Magellan" on the "Physical Phenomena of Harbor Entrances; Their Causes and Remedies; Defects of Present Methods of Improvement," and on being put to a vote it was unanimously resolved that the Society would consider the claims of the said paper.

Upon the question then recurring as to whether the said communication was worthy of the proposed premium, a vote was taken and the Society unanimously resolved that the said communication was worthy of the premium, and that the Magellanic Premium should be awarded therefor.

The sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance was then ordered to be opened, which was done by the Secretaries, and the name of the author, Prof. LEWIS M. HAUPT, of the University of Pennsylvania, was announced as the person entitled to the said premium. On motion, the President was authorized to appoint at his leisure a committee of three members to attend to all the details connected with the preparation of the medal, etc. [The President subsequently appointed Messrs. J. Sergeant Price, R. M. Bache and Henry Phillips, Jr., as such committee.]

The Secretaries presented a communication by Rev. Charles W. King, entitled "The Epitaph of M. Verrius Flaccus."

Prof. Houston exhibited a Palladium Hair Spring of a non-magnetizable watch and mentioned the experiments he had already made and was making on it.

The Finance Committee presented its Annual Report, and the appropriations for the ensuing year were passed.

The Committee on Volapük reported progress, and the report was made the special order for the next meeting.

This being the regular meeting for balloting for candidates, a ballot was gone into, and Mr. Samuel Castner, Jr., of Philadelphia, was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.